



WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

February 2017

TO: The Board of Fire Commissioners

Dear Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of some benefits of membership in the Washington Fire Commissioners Association:

1. The Legislature enacts all laws under which we are governed and the association provides full time legislative liaison representation so that Fire Districts and Regional Fire Authorities (RFAs) receive consideration.
2. The WFCA is a recognized source of administrative education for Fire Districts and RFAs. Our annual seminar series offers many important subjects including: interpretation of laws governing Fire Districts/RFAs, available funding, conduct of board meetings, responsibilities to employees (whether paid or volunteer) and other subjects vital to the successful operation of Fire Districts and RFAs. Tuition assistance is available to members with budget limitations.
3. An annual conference which includes classroom seminars and time for a relaxed interchange of ideas.
4. Broad health care and dental coverage is available to qualified personnel of member Fire Districts, RFAs and Municipalities. (Note: Commissioners electing to participate in the medical/dental program must pay their own premiums).
5. The newsletter *Fireline*, which updates current activities within the fire service and provides information on available used equipment.
6. *Fire District Lawbook*—Compilation of laws (RCW 52 and other statutes) that pertain to Fire Districts and RFAs—an electronic copy is provided to each member Fire District and RFA.
7. *Fire Commissioner Handbook*—This valuable copyrighted information is updated annually and provided electronically to each member Fire District and RFA.
8. *Fire Service Directory*—An annual publication which provides information concerning the fire service in the state, including contact information of key personnel in Fire Districts, RFAs and Municipal Departments—one copy is provided to each commissioner, secretary and chief.
9. *Official Online Fire Service Directory*—The WFCA maintains an on-line, searchable directory containing much of the same information that is included in the hard copy directory. Members receive login credentials.
10. Wage and benefit updates—A compilation of fire personnel wages, reimbursements, hours, benefits, etc.—an electronic copy is provided to each participating member, upon request.
11. An annual Legislative Day which gives members the opportunity to discuss fire service issues with their local legislators.
12. A website featuring resources and items of interest to the fire service, classified ads, a calendar of events and links to websites of other pertinent organizations, agencies and Fire Districts/RFAs (visit www.wfca.wa.gov).
13. Best Practices submitted by fire service agencies for the benefit of WFCA members are available on our website as well as other useful information on our Pamphlets and Helps list (visit www.wfca.wa.gov).
14. Notification to members of county and regional association meetings and workshops.

15. Research and liaison services with state, local governments and other authorities.
16. Telephone and written responses to specific questions concerning Fire District/RFA operations.
17. Research and consultation with the providers of all forms of insurance in order to help members obtain adequate health care contracts and general liability protection.
18. Staff attends many county and regional association meetings to provide updates on current activities of the fire service as well as one-on-one discussions of local issues and programs.
19. Staff meetings with individual Fire Districts and RFAs (upon request).
20. WFCA Board members attend regional and county association meetings for firsthand response and input for the betterment of the association.
21. Staff serves as a liaison with the State Auditor for specific follow-up and help on audits.
22. Election help: lid lifts, bonds, special levies and benefit charge information.
23. Ongoing negotiations to preserve Fire District/RFA funding authority and capacity.

Approximately 84% of Fire Districts/RFAs in the state are active participating members in the Washington Fire Commissioners Association. Member fire district personnel freely give of their own time and resources to help others. At our annual conference we see an exchange of ideas among fire commissioners which helps them provide better service to their communities. An association cannot do everything for its members; it can only serve as a focal point and central agency for an exchange of ideas with its primary function as a service organization for the membership.

The Board urges all of you to help the association, through your input and participation, to better serve Fire Districts and Regional Fire Authorities in the state of Washington.

If you would like to ask a question about the WFCA, please call any of the 2017 Board of Directors or Executive Director listed below:

David Ellingson, President (Poulsbo Fire Department).....	(360) 779-4414
Gerald Gustafson, Vice President (Graham Fire & Rescue)	(253) 847-2630
Brad Lothspeich, Secretary/Treasurer (Clark 6)	(360) 576-1195
Jack Hensley, Region 1 (Spokane 4)	(509) 466-2162
Brad Langdell, Region 2 (Walla Walla 5)	(509) 544-9199
Dwight Vander Vorste, Region 3 (Grant 10).....	(509) 346-9208
Les Riel, Region 4 (Yakima 4).....	(509) 248-1190
Larry Kibbee, Region 5 (Skagit 13)	(360) 770-6925
Chris Elwell, Region 6 (King 2).....	(206) 784-8206
Daniel Rankin, Region 7 (West Pierce Fire & Rescue).....	(253) 565-3290
Jerry Kolke, Region 8 (Clark County Fire & Rescue).....	(360) 690-5850
Gene Carmody, Region 9 (Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue)	(360) 437-4024
Roger Ferris, WFCA Executive Director.....	(360) 943-3880/1-800-491-9322